

What is the Water Quality Protection Charge?

The Water Quality Protection Charge (WQPC) raises funds to improve the water quality of our streams and reduce stormwater runoff. The WQPC can be found on Montgomery County property tax bills.

The WQPC is calculated based on the potential for a property to contribute to stormwater runoff. Typically, a larger, more developed property produces more runoff, and therefore, receives a higher charge.

What is the Credit Program?

Property owners can receive a credit off their annual Water Quality Protection Charge by maintaining stormwater management practices on their property.

Stormwater management practices capture and treat runoff so that the water does not flow directly into storm drains or streams. They remove pollutants, protect public health and prevent flooding, stream damage and erosion.



Stormwater management practices can beautify your property.

How are Credits Determined?

The amount of the credit earned by each stormwater management practice is based on the type of practice and the volume of water treated.

Intensive practices, such as wet ponds and swales, treat a lot of stormwater runoff, and therefore, give property owners a large credit. Less intensive practices, such as rain barrels, provide a smaller credit.



Ready to Apply for a Credit?

If you have a stormwater management practice on your property and maintain it in accordance with DEP requirements, then you are ready to apply for a credit. Apply now at:

MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/WQPC

The credit application for residential properties is different from the application for multi-family and non-residential properties.

Applications are due in the autumn. The credit is applied to the current tax year and is valid for 3 years. To view a list of deadlines or submit an application, visit the website above.

Montgomery County

WATER QUALITY PROTECTION CHARGE GUIDE

Department of Environmental Protection

An introductory guide to the Water Quality Protection Charge credit program



Download stormwater management guides at MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/stormwater

Contact the Department of Environmental Protection: WQPC@MontgomeryCountyMD.gov

Save Money and Help Protect Our Local Waters



Stormwater Management in Montgomery County, Maryland



Rain Gardens

Rain gardens are bowl-shaped landscaped areas designed to temporarily fill with water when it rains. They contain native plants that are adapted to both wet and dry conditions.



Green Roofs

Green roofs are rooftops covered with special soil and plants that capture rainfall and reduce runoff. They are a great way to reduce pollution and lower energy costs.



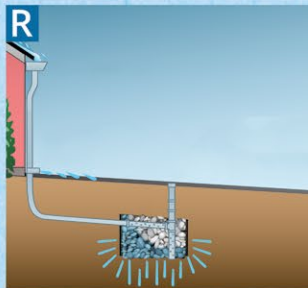
Swales

Swales are channels with vegetation on the sides and bottoms. They capture stormwater runoff to settle out pollutants and provide time for water to absorb into the ground.



Conservation Landscaping

Conservation landscaping uses native plants adapted to local rainfall and soils, instead of traditional lawns. Native plants provide habitat for pollinators as well as beautify your property.



Dry Wells

Dry wells are underground gravel pits that collect rainwater from roof gutters and let it absorb into the soil. They are a good option for properties with limited space.



Infiltration Trenches

Infiltration trenches are filled with rocks and gravel. The trench captures stormwater runoff in the spaces between the rocks to filter out pollutants and temporarily store the water.



Porous Pavement

Porous pavement (or permeable pavement) is designed to allow water to flow through spaces and drain into the underlying soil. Porous pavement can be used on driveways, parking lots, walkways and patios.



Wet Ponds

Wet ponds are designed to hold stormwater runoff and provide time for pollutants to settle out. Wet ponds continuously have water.



Sand Filters

Sand filters treat stormwater runoff by passing it through sand to remove pollutants. To the untrained eye, a sand filter may look like a volleyball court or sandbox.



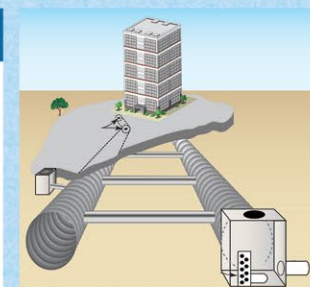
Rain Barrels

Rain barrels are containers that collect and store rainwater for later use. Rainwater typically flows into rain barrels from gutters or downspouts off of roofs.



Dry Ponds

Dry ponds only hold stormwater runoff temporarily, thereby allowing the water to be absorbed into the ground or released slowly. Some dry ponds also have sand filters at the bottom.



Underground Storage

Underground storage structures capture and treat runoff in large pipes or vaults. If you have questions about underground storage, contact the Department of Environmental Protection.

RainScapes Rewards

Interested in stormwater management but don't know where to start? Install a RainScape!

The County provides rebates to help share the cost of installation of RainScapes. Visit RainScapes.org to learn which RainScapes are right for you and how to apply for a rebate.

